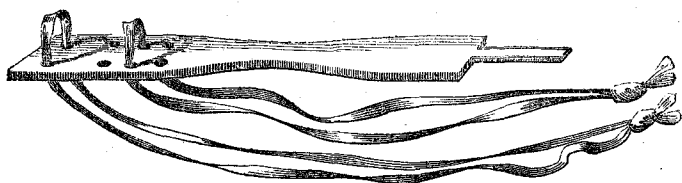


ART. IX.—*Apparatus for the Reduction of Dislocations of the Fingers or Thumb.* By RICHARD J. LEVIS, M. D., of Philadelphia. (With two wood-cuts.)

FOR the purpose of obtaining a secure hold of a dislocated finger or thumb, and of giving to the operator a powerful control of its movements during reduction, the writer has devised, and effectively used the contrivance illustrated by the accompanying cuts.

It consists simply of a thin strip of any hard wood, about ten inches in length, and one inch, or rather more in width. One end of the piece is perforated with six or eight holes, arranged as seen in the drawing. (Fig. 1.)

Fig. 1.

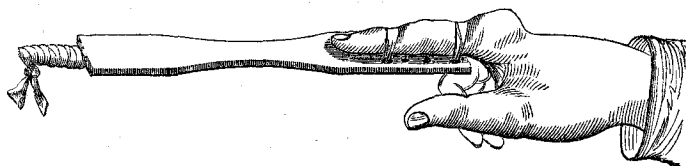


The opposite end is partly cut away, forming a projecting pin, and leaving a shoulder on each side of it. Toward this end of the strip, a sort of handle shape is given to it, so as to insure a secure grasp to the operator.

Two pieces of strong tape, or other material, about one yard in length, are prepared. One of these is passed through the holes at the end of the strip, leaving a loop on one side. The other tape is passed through another pair of holes, according as it may be a thumb or finger, to which it is to be applied, or varied to suit the length of the finger, leaving a similar loop. If a dislocated thumb is to be acted on, the second tape should be passed through the holes nearest the first. The ends of each separate tape are then tied together.

To apply the apparatus, the finger is passed through the loops. (Fig. 2.)

Fig. 2.



The loop nearest the first joint is then tightened by drawing on the tape, which is then brought along the strip to the opposite end, across one of the

shoulders, and secured by winding it firmly around the projecting pin. The other tape is tightened in a like manner, crossing the other shoulder, and winding around the pin in an opposite direction, when, for security, the ends of the tapes are finally tied together.

By this arrangement is gained a very simple means of making powerful extension; a leverage power by which the dislocated phalanx may be made to follow the rounded surface of the opposite articulation; and a power of rotating it while extension is being made, so as to turn one of the small condyles of the luxated phalanx at a time, under the unyielding lateral ligaments of the joint.

If properly applied, without the slightest painful constriction of the finger or thumb, this apparatus is perfectly unyielding to any force applied in reduction, and it must break rather than slip from its hold.

The control thus given to the operator, with its ready preparation at an emergency from materials everywhere at hand, give the apparatus decided advantages over the simple traction of the "clove hitch," or the more expensive and complicated devices which have been used for the purpose.

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ART. X.—*Case of Poisoning by Strychnia.* By H. L. GIVENS, M. D., of La Grange, Kentucky.

I WAS requested, on the evening of the 17th of September last, to see a young man on whom sentence of Court had just been pronounced for a misdemeanor. Being a man of cultivated intellect and very sensitive, and feeling deeply the stigma or disgrace the sentence entailed, he determined on self-destruction, and had just taken two ounces of tinct. opii. I found him labouring under considerable excitement and perturbation of mind, with a full, frequent pulse, and vomiting freely. As no coma or lethargy had supervened, I soon discovered that the frequent efforts at emesis, which I encouraged, would relieve him. I remained but a short time, and left him doing well.

In about an hour after, I was informed that he was suffering with violent convulsions or spasms. I immediately visited him, and found the muscles of the throat, neck, chest, and arms, in violent spasmodic action; while the inferior extremities remained in a passive, straight, and rather rigid condition. Knowing that the spasms did not result from the effects of the opium, I suspected from his symptoms that he had taken strychnia. In response to my inquiries whether he had or not, he gave an evasive answer, saying that he wished to die, and that nothing would save him now. But on pressing my inquiries, assuring him that I desired to make an effort to mitigate the violence of the pain and spasm, as there was little or no prospect of arresting the dis-